

REMARKS

Status of the Claims.

Claims 1, 4-27, and 30-50 are pending with entry of this amendment, claims 2, 3, 28, 29, and 51-97 being cancelled and no claims being added herein. Claims 1 and 27 are amended herein. These amendments introduce no new matter. Support is replete throughout the specification (*see, e.g.*, claims 2 and 28 as originally filed, and the like).

Allowable subject matter.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 20, 28, and 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With entry of the present amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 2, and independent claim 27 is amended to include the limitations of claim 28. Accordingly, these independent claims are understood to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims 4-26 depend from allowable claim 1, and claims 30-50 depend from allowable claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

The present amendments are made to expedite prosecution and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or any other subject matter disclosed in the application, or agreement with the Examiner's position. Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the canceled subject matter and/or any other subject matter disclosed in the present application.

The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner seek to maintain the rejections, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 267-4161.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Tom Hunter/

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